RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT,

1895.

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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1895.

CHORLEY, MARCH, 1896.

To the Rural District Council of Chorley,

GENTLEMEN,

I cannot give you as favourable a Report of the Vital Statistics obtaining in your District in 1895, as I was able to present to you for the preceding year. The Birth rate has been lower and the Death rate higher in 1895 than in 1894.

The number of Births registered in 1895 was Five hundred and thirty-one (531), from which I calculate, upon an estimated population of 17,500 in your District, a Birth rate of 30·3 per thousand. The Birth rate throughout England and Wales is exactly the same as that estimated in your authority. In 1894 Five hundred and forty-seven (547) Births were registered, yielding a rate of 31·2 per thousand.

In the first Table (Table A.), I have arranged the Births of 1895 under the sub-districts, calculated the Birth rate of each sub-district, and compared them with similar statistics in the two preceding years, 1894 and 1893.

TABLE A.

Sub-districts.	1895.		1894.		1893.	
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.
Chorley	145	36·1	135	33·9	133	33·6
Brindle	96	27·4	97	27·2	117	32·6
Croston	115	31·7	119	32·5	101	27·9
Leyland	127	29·4	137	31·8	142	32·8
Rivington	48	24·0	59	29·5	45	22·4
Totals	531	30·3	547	31·26	538	30·74

You will here see that the Birth rate of the Chorley sub-district is much, and that of Croston somewhat higher than the general Birth rate throughout your District, and throughout England and Wales; whilst the rates in Leyland, Brindle, and especially Rivington sub-districts, fall below the average.

Three hundred and two (302) Deaths were registered in 1895, from which, upon the same population, I estimate a Death rate of 17·26 per thousand. Though this is below the Death rate throughout England and Wales, viz.:—18·7, it is considerably higher than the very low Death rate which obtained in your District in 1894, viz.:—14·97, estimated from Two hundred and sixty-two (262) Deaths registered during the year.

The Death rate throughout England and Wales in 1895 was 2·1 per thousand in excess of that recorded in 1894: in your Authority the increase was 2·3 per thousand. To conclude the comparison of the Vital Statistics in your Authority with those throughout England and Wales—the Birth rate was exactly the same, but the Death rate was 1·44 lower in this district than the average Death rate of England and Wales.

In the next Table (Table B.), I arrange the Deaths under the various Townships in which they occurred and compare them with the number of Deaths of 1894, noting the increase or decrease in each Township.

TABLE B.

	Townships.	1895. Number of Deaths.	1894. Number of Deaths.	1895. Increase.	1895. Decrease.
Chorley Sub-District	Charnock Richard	11	11	...	...
	Coppull	50	49	1	...
	Duxbury	1	5	...	4
	Heapey	5	4	1	...
	Welch Whittle ...	*Nil*	2	...	2
Brindle Sub-District	Brindle	13	14	...	1
	Hoghton	16	9	7	...
	Wheelton	30	23	7	...
Croston Sub-District	Bretherton	16	16	...	...
	Eccleston	12	19	...	7
	Heskin	11	6	5	...
	Mawdesley	18	9	9	...
	Ulnes Walton ...	12	6	6	...
Leyland Sub-District	Clayton-le-Woods	17	10	7	...
	Cuerden	4	12	...	8
	Euxton	10	18	...	8
	Whittle-le-Woods	44	31	13	...
Rivington Sub-District	Anderton	8	5	3	...
	Anglezarke... ...	1	*Nil*	1	...
	Heath Charnock...	22	11	11	...
	Rivington	1	2	...	1
	Totals	302	262	71	31

The Townships which showed a higher mortality in 1895 over that of 1894, are Whittle-le-Woods, with an increase of thirteen (13) Deaths; Heath Charnock, eleven (11); Mawdesley, nine (9); Clayton-le-Woods, Wheelton, and Hoghton, seven (7) each; Ulnes-Walton, six (6); Heskin, five (5); Anderton, three (3); and Coppull, Heapey, and Anglezarke, one (1) each. On the other hand the deaths in 1895 were fewer than in 1894 by eight (8), in Cuerden and Euxton respectively, seven (7) in Eccleston, four (4) in Duxbury, two (2) in Welch Whittle, and one (1) each in Brindle and Rivington.

The Death rate of each Registration Sub-district in your Authority is given in the next Table (Table C), and such rates are compared with those obtaining in the same Sub-districts in the three preceding years.

TABLE C.

Sub-districts.	1895.		1894.		1893.		1892.	
	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.
Chorley	67	16·7	71	17·8	58	14·9	59	15·8
Brindle	59	16·6	46	12·9	79	22·0	62	17·4
Croston	69	19·0	56	15·3	62	17·1	62	17·1
Leyland	75	17·3	71	16·5	80	18·5	70	16·3
Rivington	32	16·0	18	9·0	25	12·5	25	12·6
Totals	302	17·26	262	15·19	304	17·37	278	16·0

Chorley Sub-district alone shows a decreased Death rate in 1895, as compared with that of 1894, but a higher one than in 1893 or 1892. Brindle and Leyland Sub-districts have yielded a higher rate in 1895 than in 1894, but not much above the average Death rate; whilst the rate in Croston and Rivington Sub-districts are not only higher in 1895 than in 1894, but considerably in excess of the death rate in these Sub-districts in any of the last three years.

In Table D. I compare the Deaths in each quarter of 1895 with those in the corresponding quarter of 1894, and 1893 respectively.

TABLE D.

Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Totals.
1895	86	73	60	83	302
1894	75	68	68	51	262
1893	68	86	72	78	304

The increase in the mortality in 1895 over that of 1894, occurred chiefly in the fourth quarter and to a less extent in the first and second. In the third quarter there was a decreased number of Deaths not only as compared with those occurring in 1894, but also with those in 1893.

The ages at which the several Deaths occurred in each Sub-district are shown in the next Table (Table E), and the total number of Deaths at each age in your Authority is compared with the similar totals of 1894, 1893, and 1892.

TABLE E.

Sub-districts.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 25	25 and upwards.	Totals.
Chorley	26	10	4	27	67
Brindle	8	9	6	36	59
Croston	15	5	9	40	69
Leyland	15	4	5	51	75
Rivington	4	3	3	22	32
Total Deaths in 1895 ...	68	31	27	176	302
Total Deaths in 1894 ..	74	40	18	130	262
Total Deaths in 1893 ...	70	29	21	184	304
Total Deaths in 1892 ...	62	29	22	165	278

Here you will see that the number of Deaths in Infants under one year of age, and Children under five, was less in 1895 than in 1894; whilst that of young people between five and twenty-five was considerably, and that of adults very markedly greater in 1895 than in the preceding year.

The Infantile Mortality, calculated from the ratio between the Deaths under one year and the registered Births, was in 1895, One hundred and twenty-eight (128) per thousand. In 1894 the Infantile Mortality in your District was One hundred and thirty-five (135); and in 1893, One hundred and thirty (130) per thousand. Throughout England and Wales the Infantile Mortality was at the rate of One hundred and sixty-one (161) per thousand. I consider the decrease in our Infantile Mortality in the last two years, and the fact that it is so far below the average which obtained throughout the country in 1895, very satisfactory.

In the next Table (Table F.) I arrange the Deaths of 1895 and 1894 under the various causes to which they were due, and give the increase or decrease in the number of Deaths from each cause in 1895 as compared with 1894.

TABLE F.

Causes of Deaths.	1895. Deaths.	1894. Deaths.	Increase in 1895.	Decrease in 1895.
Scarlet Fever	2	5	...	3
Diphtheria	1	1	...	...
Membranous Croup... ...	4	5	...	1
Typhoid or Enteric Fever	4	4	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	2	...
Erysipelas...	1	...	1	...
Measles	...	3	...	3
Whooping Cough	2	4	...	2
Influenza	11	1	10	...
Diarrhœa and Dysentery .	1	3	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	1	1	...	...
Phthisis	20	13	7	...
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	50	38	12	...
Heart Disease	24	27	...	3
Injuries	8	10	...	2
All other Diseases	171	147	24	...
Totals	302	262	56	16

The first thing you will notice is that, as a rule, and with the marked exception of Influenza, Infectious Diseases have been less fatal in 1895 than in 1894. The increase in the Mortality has been chiefly due to Diseases not otherwise specified, Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c., Influenza and Phthisis.

The Death rate in your District from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases in 1895 was ·68 per thousand; whilst in 1894 it was 1·20, in 1893—1·54 and in 1892—1·00. The average Zymotic Death rate throughout England and Wales in 1895 was 2·14. I think we have reason to be pleased with our Death rate from Zymotic Diseases.

Although the Zymotic Death rate was so low in 1895, the number of Infectious Cases reported to me was greater than in any, except the first year, since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. I arrange in the next Table (Table G.) the number of cases of each Infectious Disease reported in 1895, and in the four preceding years.

TABLE G.

Years.	Small Pox.	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas	Continued Fevers.				Totals.
						Typhus.	Typhoid.	Other Fevers.	Puerperal.	
1895	...	28	3	101	30	...	25	2	2	191
1894	...	31	3	51	26	...	33	1	...	145
1893	6	2	3	67	13	...	32	5	2	130
1892	1	1	...	22	7	...	27	1	2	61
1891	...	40	...	29	9	3	29	3	1	114

Cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported from all the Townships with the exception of Anglezarke. Whittle-le-Woods again heads the list with forty-seven (47) cases; Mawdesley has yielded thirty-two (32); Coppull, twenty-seven (27); Brindle, sixteen (16); Heath Charnock, thirteen (13); and Wheelton, (10).

I have distributed in the next Table (Table H.) the cases of each Infectious Disease amongst the Townships in which they occurred and compared the total number of notified cases in each Township in 1895 with that recorded in 1894.

TABLE H.

Townships.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid & Continued Fevers.	Totals in 1895.	Totals in 1894.
Charnock Richard..	...	...	...	...	1	1	11
Coppull	1	1	3	17	5	27	35
Duxbury	...	...	1	1	...	2	...
Heapey	...	...	2	...	2	4	2
Welch Whittle ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Brindle	...	...	2	12	2	16	4
Hoghton	...	...	1	3	1	5	2
Wheelton	4	...	...	...	6	10	13
Bretherton	...	...	...	...	3	3	2
Eccleston	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
Heskin	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Mawdesley	...	...	...	31	1	32	1
Ulnes Walton ...	1	...	1	...	...	2	1
Clayton-le-Woods...	4	...	...	2	1	7	11
Cuerden	2	...	...	1	...	3	...
Euxton	...	...	1	4	1	6	5
Whittle-le-Woods...	16	...	12	17	2	47	36
Anderton	...	...	2	1	...	3	6
Anglezarke	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Heath Charnock ...	...	2	4	6	1	13	9
Rivington	...	...	1	4	1	6	1
Totals	28	3	30	101	29	191	145

Twenty-eight (28) cases of Diphtheria were reported to me, of which number sixteen (16) were notified from Whittle-le-Woods, four (4) from Wheelton and Clayton-le-Woods, respectively. As only one (1) Death resulted from this Disease and several cases were quite well before your Officers had an opportunity of visiting the localities, I am of opinion that some of the notified instances cannot have been true examples of this very serious disease.

Erysipelas was notified in thirty (30) instances, and again Whittle-le-Woods yielded a large proportion of the cases, viz., twelve (12).

Scarlet Fever was markedly prevalent in the township of Mawdesley in the Spring and Summer months, thirty-one (31) cases of this Disease having been notified from this township out of a total of one hundred and one (101) reported to me. Whittle-le-Woods and Coppull afforded seventeen (17) cases each; Brindle, twelve (12); and in ten other townships a few isolated cases occurred. This Disease was more prevalent in your district than usual throughout the year, but only two (2) Deaths resulted therefrom.

Twenty-five (25) cases of Typhoid Fever; two (2) of other Continued fevers, and two (2) of Puerperal Fever were reported from several townships, especially from Wheelton with six (6) cases and Coppull with five (5). Six (6) Deaths occurred.

Measles, which is not a notifiable Disease, was prevalent in a few townships, and I closed St. Joseph's School, Brindle, for a few weeks, owing to the number of cases occurring in the children attending that school.

In my report to you for the year 1894, I expressed a hope that the Infectious Hospital would be erected by the end of 1895. I am sorry to say that owing to the difficulty in obtaining a proper water supply, &c., my expectation has not been fulfilled. The Joint Hospital Board has been fully instituted and has held monthly meetings. The site has been purchased and deputations from the Board have visited and inspected several Infectious Hospitals in Lancashire. Plans have been drawn up by the Surveyor to the Joint Hospital Board, submitted for their approval and have been passed by them. The Board have appointed your Surveyor and myself respectively, Surveyor and Medical Officer. I trust that in a few months the work will be commenced so that as speedily as possible means of isolating Infectious Cases may be supplied to your Officers, and the spread of Infectious Diseases thereby prevented.

The County Medical Officer of Health is promoting a scheme for the creation of a large Joint Hospital District for the purpose of erecting a Small Pox Hospital. He has suggested that the various Sanitary Authorities comprised in the Chorley, Wigan, and Ormskirk Unions, which have no Small Pox Hospital accommodation, should unite to form a Joint Hospital District for this purpose. Your Council have consented to this proposal, and I expect that the matter will be again brought under your notice during the ensuing year.

During the year 1895 the Sewerage works begun in many of the townships in the previous year have been completed, except those at Whittle-le-Woods, and as a rule are now working satisfactorily. I give the details under the townships concerned :—

Coppull.—In 1893 sewers were laid in the Springfield district, and in 1894 the precipitating tanks and filter beds for the International Process of Purification were constructed, and land acquired for the irrigation of the effluent. In 1895 the Oaktree district has been thoroughly sewered according to plans passed by the Local Government Board and from a further loan sanctioned thereby. The sewage from this district goes into the purification works at Springfield, and is treated there. In addition, the Coppull Moor sewage, which had previously been brought to a tank and there allowed to flow over land acquired for that purpose, has been conveyed to the Springfield works. The lease of the irrigation land at Coppull Moor has been arranged to be surrendered and the tank dismantled. The sewage from houses in the Gray Horse district has been for many years running into two open ditches and has been from time to time a great nuisance. Your Surveyor was instructed to draw plans and estimates for the drainage of this district: these have been laid before you and approved of by you; and negotiations for acquiring the necessary land are now going on. I expect the work will be shortly completed. The Parish Council of Coppull have memorialised you about sewering the Church Lane and Coppull Lane districts. You have directed preliminary borings to be made, and I venture to recommend that this work be proceeded with as early as possible.

Eccleston.—The Sewerage Works carried out in the previous year are in full working order. Your Council has directed ventilating shafts to be fixed where necessary to relieve sewer gas pressure. The sewering of this district has been improved by the draining of Red House Lane and Preston Nook into the main sewer.

Euxton.—The sewer previously laid has been extended during the year to the Post Office. In July complaint was made by the Ribble Watershed Committee that the effluent was highly unsatisfactory. Some alterations have been made in the Outfall Works which have been a great improvement, and now the effluent is much less polluted than it was when the objections were made to your Council.

Wheelton and Heapey.—The Sewerage Works erected by your Council are acting satisfactorily. A complaint was made to you by the Low Mill Company, about the water below their works being rendered unfit for their purposes by the effluent from your works. A Committee of your Council met the Manager on the spot, samples were taken of the stream above and below the outfall from the irrigation land, and it was found that the stream was freer from the pollution complained of below than above the outfall. The land for irrigation is by your direction to be laid out and drained.

Whittle-le-Woods.—The whole of the Sewering provided for in the Scheme passed by the Local Government Board has been completed, but the Purification works are not yet finished. I think that there should be no further delay in completing the filter beds, and commencing the proper treatment of the sewage. For several months very little progress has been made. I also recommend that the drainage of Rock Villa Road be proceeded with as early as possible.

Mr. Jackman has been appointed Superintendent by you over the whole of the Sewerage works under your jurisdiction. As the success of these schemes depends altogether upon constant care and attention to details, I am of opinion that this supervision will be of great service.

Water Supply.—This subject has received a great deal of attention from you during the year. A great part of the district of your Sanitary Authority is badly supplied with water, and as I have before remarked this question might well receive your careful attention. In some places, such as Mawdesley, Charnock Richard, Euxton, &c., there is very little water fit for drinking to be obtained. I beg again to recommend this subject to the Parish Councils for their consideration. The Parish Councils of Heath Charnock and Heapey have had this matter under discussion, and have made suggestions to your Council which you have proceeded to carry out.

Coppull.—I am glad to state that this township, which has hitherto been so badly furnished with water fit for domestic purposes, has now got a good supply. The Standish Local Board have entered into an agreement to supply Coppull with a maximum of 25,000 gallons per diem. A meter-house and meter have been erected on the top of Birkacre Brow. Mains have been laid along Church Lane, Coppull Lane, Spendmore Lane, and Wigan Road. Most of the house connections have been made, and a man has been appointed to attend to the Water supply along with the Sewerage works. Mains are now in process of being laid in Bogburn Lane, Clinkutts Lane, Rag Whistle Lane, and Coppull Brow. When these are completed Coppull will be very well supplied with water.

Eccleston.—A supply from a second well having been analysed by the County Analyst and having been declared good but hard, has been joined to the water from Langton Well and is now in use.

Heath Charnock.—The Parish Council met a deputation from your Council with your Officers, to consider the Water Supply to Turner's Smithy and Babylon Lane, &c. Analyses have been made of the Liverpool Corporation water above Alance bridge, and as they have proved satisfactory, the Manchester Corporation are to be interviewed to waive their right and to allow the Liverpool Corporation to supply this district.

Whittle-le-Woods.—I have again to bring under your notice the want of a good water supply to this township. It was resolved by your Council in October, 1894, to leave this matter to the consideration of the Parish Council. During 1895 a deputation was appointed by that Council to meet a Sub-Committee of your Authority. Nothing has yet resulted, and I strongly recommend your Council to proceed with the matter in conjunction with the Parish Council, at the earliest opportunity. I am also still of opinion that St. Helen's well supply would be ample if the objections of the riparian users could be overcome.

Heapey.—The Parish Council have been empowered by you to bring water from a well on Mr. Wiggan's Farm to Heapey Station, and houses in the neighbourhood. The water has been analysed and found satisfactory.

Euxton.—This township is very badly supplied. You have had this matter under discussion and have caused a supply of water to be analysed. I recommend this subject for your careful consideration.

Mawdesley.—Nothing has been done in this township to obtain a water supply. The water from some of the wells used by the inhabitants is quite unfit for drinking.

Brindle.—A large tank has been placed opposite the Church to facilitate the supply of water to this district.

I beg to recommend for your consideration, the question of systematic Scavenging in the more populous localities. I think that where your Council have men to attend to the Sewage Works, it would be very beneficial to employ them for the regular and frequent removal of ashes, garbage, and refuse from the backyards, &c. There is often some difficulty in inducing occupiers of houses to remove refuse from their premises, on account of their inability to dispose of the same. One or more "tips" might be obtained in each of these townships, and systematic Scavenging instituted.

During the year you have had the plans of all new houses placed before you, so that you might ascertain the method of drainage, &c., and, in some townships, whether they were to be erected in accordance with your bye-laws.

Certificates of sufficient water supply have been granted to forty-six (46) newly-erected houses; viz., thirteen (13) at Coppull, nine (9) at Clayton-le-Woods, six (6) at Heskin, five (5) at Hoghton, Anderton, and Heath Charnock respectively, two (2) at Heapey, and one (1) at Eccleston.

I annex a Table (Table I.) in which is detailed under each township the Nuisances ordered to be abated by you and the Sanitary defects to be remedied during 1895.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS, M.D. (LOND.)

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Townships.	Drains laid, repaired, or cleaned out.	Privies erected or repaired.	Dirty Houses or Houses infected with Fever fumigated or disinfected.	Water supply improved.	Common nuisances abated.	Totals.
Charnock Richard..	4	4	...	...	...	8
Coppull...	5	1	8	...	8	22
Duxbury	...	...	1	...	...	1
Welch Whittle ...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Brindle	2	1	4	1	...	8
Hoghton	...	...	3	...	...	3
Wheelton	1	...	5	...	...	6
Bretherton	3	5	1	...	3	12
Eccleston	44	1	1	1	...	47
Heskin	4	3	...	...	...	7
Mawdesley	1	1	8	...	...	10
Ulnes Walton ...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Clayton-le-Woods ..	1	...	2	...	...	3
Cuerden	...	...	2	...	...	2
Euxton	4	...	2	...	1	7
Whittle-le-Woods...	53	2	20	...	...	75
Anderton	7	...	3	...	...	10
Heath Charnock ...	4	2	4	...	1	11
Rivington	1	...	2	...	1	4
Totals	135	20	66	3	15	239